

# USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

## PRE-DEBATES POLL

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

Timberline: 160861  
H: 342  
Princeton Job #: 12-09-014

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September 24-27, 2012

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**Note: Q.18-19 should be cited as a Gallup poll.**

**Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 24-27, 2012 with a random sample of –1,446— adults, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.**

**For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is  $\pm 3$  percentage points.**

**For results based on the sample of –1,301— registered voters, the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 3$  percentage points.**

**Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents by region. Landline numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers, cell phone numbers are selected using random-digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.**

**Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, and phone status (cell phone only/landline only/both, having an unlisted landline number, and being cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2011 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.**

**In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.**

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12. Thinking about the following characteristics and qualities, please say whether you think each one applies more to Barack Obama or more to Mitt Romney. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

*2012 Sep 24-27*

*(sorted by "Advantage")*

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Advantage</u>
Understands the problems Americans face in their daily lives	55	35	O, +20
Shares your values	50	42	O, +8
Is a strong and decisive leader	49	41	O, +8
Is more likely to keep his campaign promises	48	41	O, +7
Can manage the government effectively	46	44	O, +2

*Q.12 candidate characteristics continued on next page*

**COMPLETE RESULTS:**

**A. Is a strong and decisive leader**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2012 Sep 24-27	49	41	3	5	2
2012 Aug 20-22	47	42	5	6	2
2012 May 1-2 ^	53	36	2	3	5

^ Asked on Gallup Daily tracking survey

**B. Can manage the government effectively**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2012 Sep 24-27	46	44	2	7	2
2012 Aug 20-22	45	44	3	6	2
2012 May 1-2 ^	47	42	1	4	6

^ Asked on Gallup Daily tracking survey

**C. Understands the problems Americans face in their daily lives**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2012 Sep 24-27	55	35	3	5	2
2012 Jul 19-22	50	39	3	7	1

**D. Shares your values**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2012 Sep 24-27	50	42	2	4	2

**E. Is more likely to keep his campaign promises**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2012 Sep 24-27	48	41	2	8	2

13. Regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you think Barack Obama or Mitt Romney would better handle each of the following issues. How about – [RANDOM ORDER]?

**2012 Sep 24-27  
(sorted by “Advantage”)**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Advantage</u>
Social issues such as gay marriage and abortion	59	33	O, +26
Foreign affairs	53	41	O, +12
Terrorism and other international threats	52	42	O, +10
Energy	50	41	O, +9
Medicare	50	42	O, +8
Healthcare	51	45	O, +6
Taxes	48	45	O, +3
The economy	45	49	R, +4
The federal budget deficit	39	52	R, +13

**COMPLETE RESULTS:**

**A. The economy**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	45	49	3	4
2012 Aug 20-22	43	52	2	3
2012 Jul 19-22	41	51	3	5

**B. The federal budget deficit**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	39	52	3	6
2012 Aug 20-22	39	54	2	5
2012 Jul 19-22	36	55	4	6

**C. Healthcare**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	51	45	1	3
2012 Aug 20-22	52	43	1	4
2012 Jul 19-22	47	47	3	3

**D. Foreign Affairs**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	53	41	2	4
2012 Aug 20-22	54	40	1	5
2012 Jul 19-22	52	40	2	6

**E. Taxes**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	48	45	2	5
2012 Aug 20-22	52	43	1	4
2012 Jul 19-22	45	49	2	4

**F. Medicare**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	50	42	3	5
2012 Aug 20-22	53	41	1	5

**G. Energy**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	50	41	2	7
2012 Aug 20-22	53	40	1	6

**H. Social issues such as gay marriage and abortion**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	59	33	2	6

**I. Terrorism and other international threats**

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>SAME (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	52	42	3	4

15. Now thinking about four years from now, do you think the U.S. economy will be much better, somewhat better, the same as now, somewhat worse, or much worse –[RANDOM ORDER]?

**A. If Barack Obama is re-elected president this November**

	<u>Much better</u>	<u>Somewhat better</u>	<u>The same as now</u>	<u>Somewhat worse</u>	<u>Much worse</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	16	32	12	11	29	1
2012 May 10-13	14	32	16	14	23	2

**B. If Mitt Romney is elected president this November**

	<u>Much better</u>	<u>Somewhat better</u>	<u>The same as now</u>	<u>Somewhat worse</u>	<u>Much worse</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 24-27	16	34	14	13	22	1
2012 May 10-13	13	42	15	14	13	3